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GREAT BRITAIN, Army Medical Services



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Proceedings and Report

OR

A SPECIAL MEDICAL BOARD

APPOINTED BY

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF,

AND

THE SECRETARY AT WAR,

TO EXAMINE THE STATE OF

THE HOSPITAL

AT

THE MILITARY DEPOT IN THE ISLE OF WIGHT,

&c. &c. &c.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

His Royal Highness the Commander in Chief, and the Secretary at War, ordered an inspection of the hospital of the depot in the Isle of Wight, in 1801. The Physician who was stationed there at that time (Dr. Jackson), published a work in the year 1803, containing extracts from the report of the Special Board, which, if not calculated to mislead, tend to convey imperfect information to the public. In a work lately published by T. Keate, Esq. Surgeon-General, extracts are also given in a partial manner ; and he makes divers serious charges, either directly or by insinuation, against the board. The members of the board, conceiving that they could not, in any way, more clearly shew the justice of their proceedings than by making them public, and allowing every one the means of forming his own judgment, wrote the following letter to the Secretary at War :

" Old Burlington Street,

" Sir,

June 21, 1808.

" In the year 1801, by orders from His Royal Highness the Commander in Chief, communicated by the Secretary at War, the subscribers to this letter were constituted a Special Board, for the purpose of examining into the state of the hospital at the depot in the Isle of Wight, and other matters, on which they were directed to report to His Royal Highness the Commander in Chief, and the Secretary at War. Their report was transmitted to His Royal Highness and the Secretary at War, on the 8th of June 1802, and was honored with their full approbation."

" In the year 1803 Dr. Jackson published partial extracts from this report (but we are of opinion that if he made use of any part of it, in his vindication, he ought to have printed the whole).

" In a late publication by Mr. Keate, partial extracts are also given from the report; and he likewise charges the Special Board with having 'made their inquiry completely *ex parte*; ' and further calls in question, in many particulars, the justice and impartiality of the Board.

"Conceiving the insinuations and aspersions thus thrown out against the Special Board to be no less unjust towards us, than detrimental to the public service, we have to request that His Royal Highness the Commander in Chief, and yourself, will grant us permission to make public our Report, with the documents necessary for its illustration. The publication will prevent any one from being misled by partial extracts; it will shew how groundless the charges are which have been brought against us; and we hope, it will also justify the approbation and favourable opinion of the report, which were conveyed to us from His Royal Highness the Commander in Chief, and the Secretary at War, in a letter of the 16th of January 1802.

"We have the honor to be,

"&c. &c.

"J. M. HAYES.

"J. HUNTER.

"J. WEIR.

"G. PINCKARD.

"Right Hon. Sir James Pulteney, Bart.
Secretary at War, &c. &c. &c."

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They received the following answer :

“ SIR, War Office, June 28th, 1808.

“ Having referred to the Commander in Chief, the letter from yourself and the other members of the Special Board, constituted in 1801, for the purpose of examining into the state of the hospital at the depot in the Isle of Wight, requesting permission to make public your report, with the documents necessary for its illustration ; I have the satisfaction to acquaint you that His Royal Highness concurs with the Secretary at War in thinking your request reasonable, and therefore consents to the publication of the report and documents in question.

“ I am, Sir,

“ Your most obedient humble Servant,

“ F. MOORE.

“ Sir J. Macnamara Hayes, Bart.”

Agreeably to the permission granted, they now lay before the public the documents and Report, in the order best calculated to elucidate their proceedings.

PROCEEDINGS,

&c.

*Letter from the Secretary at War to Sir J. M.
Hayes, Bart.*

"SIR, War Office, 22d Dec. 1801.

"The Physician and Surgeon General of the Army having in an official letter to me animadverted in pointed terms on the system pursued in the hospital of the Isle of Wight, in the treatment of the medical patients, their representation has been submitted to the Commander in Chief, with such observations as I thought it my duty to offer to His Royal Highness thereupon; in consequence of which, His Royal Highness has been pleased to order, that an investigation of the subject shall forthwith take place on the spot, by a board of medical officers composed of Dr. John Hunter, Dr. Pinckard, Mr. Weir, and yourself.

"For the information of the board, I send you copies of the letter (with its enclosures) from

Sir Lucas Pepys, and Mr. Keate; of mine to the Duke of York; and of His Royal Highness's answer: and I am to signify to you His Royal Highness's commands, that you do accordingly proceed, with your earliest convenience, to the Isle of Wight, where you are diligently to investigate the several matters represented by the Physician and Surgeon General, in regard to the treatment of the medical patients under the care and superintendence of Dr. Jackson; to inspect minutely the hospital itself; to notice whether any, and what objections attach to its situation or construction; and to judge how far any defects therein may be considered among the causes of the sickness and mortality, stated to have been unusually prevalent among the troops of the depot in the Isle of Wight.

" After due investigation of the whole, you will be pleased to make a full report thereupon, for His Royal Highness's; and my information.

" I have the honor to be, Sir,

" Your most obedient humble servant,

" C. YORKE.

" Sir John M. Hayes, Bart.

Ec. Ec. Ec.

" P. S. Doctors Hunter and Pinckard, and Mr. Weir, have been referred to you, for a communication of this letter and its enclosure."

Letter from the Secretary at War to His Royal Highness the Commander in Chief.

"SIR, War Office, 18th Dec. 1801.

"In the monthly report made to Your Royal Highness by the Army Medical Board on the 1st instant, they intimated their intention of bringing forward certain circumstances regarding the treatment of the sick in the Isle of Wight, to which their attention had been led in the course of their investigating the subject of some papers transmitted by General Hewett, and referred by me to the board relative to the economy of the said hospital.

"I have accordingly received from Sir Lucas Pepys and Mr. Keate the letter of which I have now the honor of transmitting a copy for Your Royal Highness's consideration, together with five enclosures referred to therein,

"When the Physician and Surgeon General of the army officially state, that the officer placed at the head of any military hospital has taken upon himself to reduce the sick table established by Your Royal Highness's authority for general use; and when they ascribe to the system pursued in that particular hospital (however it may produce an apparent saving of

money), the debilitated state of the patients, their frequent relapses, and tedious recoveries; and above all the unprecedented number of deaths; I presume to submit my opinion, that upon such a representation, some further proceedings would always be found expedient, as well from regard to the King's troops, as to the character of the individual whose professional practice is impeached; and they seem to be more peculiarly necessary in the instance of so extensive an hospital as that of the Isle of Wight.

"Your Royal Highness is the best judge of what those proceedings should be: but I humbly take leave to suggest the formation of a board composed of some of the most respectable officers in the medical line of the army; to whom the papers now transmitted, and those which were received from General Hewett, may be referred; with orders that the board should, after a personal investigation on the spot, make their report to Your Royal Highness thereupon."

"If this measure be adopted, it would be proper that the papers from Sir Lucas Pepys and Mr. Keate should be communicated to Doctor Jackson, with notice of the intended investigation. Sir John Hayes, Dr. John Hunter, Dr. Pinckard (if in England), Mr. Weir (late

Director of Hospitals in Jamaica and St. Domingo), have occurred to me as persons from whom, with others of equal professional eminence, better known to Your Royal Highness than to me, a selection of three might be made for composing the board; and possibly an officer of rank not belonging to the medical line (Colonel Burnet for instance) might be usefully associated with them in some parts of the investigation.

"I am, &c.

"C. YORKE.

"*His Royal Highness
the Commander in Chief.*"

Letter from His Royal Highness the Commander in Chief to the Secretary at War.

"Horse Guards,

"SIR,

19th Dec. 1801.

"I lose no time in acknowledging the receipt of your letter of yesterday, and its enclosures, and in assuring you how entirely I agree with you in the sentiments you have expressed on the subject of the Army Medical Board's representation, relative to the system which has been pursued by Doctor Jackson in

the hospital in the Isle of Wight. I am equally satisfied of the expediency of the proceedings which you have proposed should in consequence be adopted, nor do I think that any fitter persons could possibly have been selected than Sir John Hayes, Doctor John Hunter, Doctor Pinckard, and Mr. Weir, for making, on the spot, an investigation, which appears to me in every point of view to be most desirable, whether connected with the benefit of His Majesty's service, or as affording to Doctor Jackson an opportunity of removing from his professional character the imputation which has been thrown upon it.

"I must of course feel desirous that the investigation should take place as early as it conveniently can; and it appears to me that the persons before named should have directions to inspect minutely the hospital in the Isle of Wight, and report whether, in their opinion, any and what objections attach to its situation or construction. I return the several enclosures received with your letter, and I am, &c.

"FREDERICK.

"*The Right Hon. the Secretary at War,
&c. &c. &c.*"

"P. S. In regard to your proposal that Lieut. Colonel Burnet should be a member of the

Board, I have to observe, that as Lieutenant Colonel Burnet's duty does not extend to the Hospital in the Isle of Wight, which is exclusively under the military inspection of Major General Hewett, and the officers of his staff, I do not think it would be proper to name Lieutenant Colonel Burnet upon this occasion."

*Letter from the Physician and Surgeon General
to the Secretary at War.*

"Upper Brook Street,

"SIR,

Dec. 10th, 1801.

"We have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th ult. with the enclosed papers, directing us, 'after comparing the statement of the expenditure for the hospital in the Isle of Wight with those for the other general hospitals in this country, ' to report to you our opinion, whether it would ' be expedient at present to make any and what ' alteration in the system established by Dr. ' Jackson; or whether Dr. Jackson's regulations ' appear to have been framed with so due a regard to economy, and to the advantage of the ' troops, as to afford such ground for considering ' the propriety of introducing them into the ' other general hospitals at home.'

" We have the honor to acquaint you, that we have made the comparative statement of the expenditure for that hospital, with those of the other general hospitals at home; but we find that by far the greater proportion of patients in those hospitals is of a very different description of sick from those formerly at Chatham, and now in the Isle of Wight. With respect to the question, unconnected with other circumstances, which in the course of this investigation it will be our duty to lay before you, it appears to be, whether a liberal and generous diet is requisite to restore men who have either been debilitated by disease, or by active debilitating remedies.

" It appears that Dr. Jackson's mode of carrying on the Isle of Wight hospital is an apparent saving of money; but, at the Isle of Wight, and lately at Chatham, we have observed an unprecedented number of deaths (viz. 27 in the last month, and 21 in the two last weeks), frequent relapses and tedious recoveries, with a debilitated state of the patients; therefore, so far from economy being effected, there has been a very serious loss of men, and ultimately a great expenditure. These returns called upon us to recommend that two physicians should be sent immediately to the Isle of Wight.

" We now beg leave to advert to the enclosed

letters, No. 1, 2, 3, 4, and this we do in obedience to your commands, when we had the honor of waiting upon you: it appears therefore that Dr. Jackson has altered the established diet table, as used in all our hospitals, and sanctioned by His Royal Highness the Commander in Chief, and that he has reduced many other articles of comfort and nourishment.

" We have thought it would throw some light on the subject before you, to send the enclosed monthly report of the foreign military hospitals in the Isle of Wight, for the month of October last, by which a comparative statement of the mortality in the same place, under different diet and treatment, may be made.

" Upon the whole it will appear, that Dr. Jackson's system of economy is not to the advantage of the troops, and should not be introduced into our home general hospitals, and we humbly submit that it will be necessary to enforce the printed regulations for general hospitals in the Isle of Wight.

" We have, &c.

" L. PEPYS.

" T. KEATE.

" *The Right Hon. Charles Yorke,
&c. &c. &c.*

Letter from Dr. MacLaurin to T. Keate, Esq.

" SIR,

London, June 8, 1801.

" Dr. Jackson having stated that he will resist my having any share of duty at Chatham garrison hospital, on account of a difference in professional opinions and treatment of diseases, I have to relate the chief points in which that difference exists.

" It is as to the diet of patients; especially in chronic diseases, and convalescents, for I cannot but object to the low diet as established by his order, and in use in the hospital.

" As to the free use of the lancet: almost the entire of the patients are largely bled, especially in fevers, upon their admission.

" As to the mode of keeping the sick long in a hot bath, and while the body is covered with a most profuse perspiration, the surface running with moisture, an immediate affusion of cold water thrown on the body by buckets-full, or the patient immersed in a cold bath.

" As to the very free use and continuance of strong purges and evacuants; the whole of which is no uncommon practice in that hospital.

" From such causes recoveries may be more slow, relapses more frequent, with the addi-

tional risk of producing diseases of general debility, especially effusions in the chest, and anasarca.

" You will recollect, Sir, that I went to Chatham hospital by your order; the wards to which I was appointed have been, for some time past, kept without a renewal of patients, as vacancies occurred; so that they, while the other medical wards remain full, are empty: when aware of his plan, I demanded an interview with Dr. Jackson, who then admitted his intention of keeping them so, in which he has since persisted. I reported this in two letters to the Physician-General to the army, the one dated May 6th, last, the day on which the conversation alluded to took place; and on the 8th: in the former enclosing a diet table of Chatham hospital, which differs essentially from that of His Majesty's order. A third statement was subsequently made, my sentiments having been previously made known a considerable time since.

" Assistant Inspector Borland is much employed in physician's duty of prescribing for medical patients: for this Dr. Jackson says there is an order from the War Office; takes the responsibility upon himself, and says that he has the power of delegating the duty to him, and

that he will continue to employ him therein ; during Dr. Jackson's last absence he was entrusted with the entire medical care of Chatham hospital.

" The hospital register and books will shew the general practice in use, with the result.

" I assert that by a liberal attention to the wants of the sick, recoveries will both be more frequent and more speedy—relapses more rare. The sick cannot without injury to themselves, of course detriment to the service, be debarred certain indulgences ; their comforts cannot be withheld with impunity ; by a free diet and occasional use of wine and other stimuli, convalescents especially are more speedily, more effectually restored to health ; sick, particularly chronic cases, are enabled to go through disease, their strength is supported, relapses are less common, and I am convinced this will be upon the whole the most economical plan to Government : by a spare diet men are kept longer in hospitals, are longer in a state of weakness, of course unfit for service ; the mortality will probably be greater, and independent of the feelings of humanity, it must be recollect that expense is in fact increased ; it is more slow perhaps, but more certain ; liberal treatment of sick is consistent with the most

rigid economy; nor can it be an object to curtail the allowances of pay and rations to orderly men, nurses, and other servants, in attendance on the sick.

“ I have, &c.

“ JAS. CHICHESTER MACLAURIN,

“ Physician on the Staff of the Forces.

“ Thomas Keate, Esq.

Surgeon-General to His Majesty's Forces,

&c. &c. &c. London.”

Letter from Dr. Maclaurin to the Army Medical Board.

“ GENTLEMEN,

London, Dec. 7, 1801.

“ Having been called upon officially by you to state my opinion respecting a new diet table proposed by Dr. Jackson, head of the general hospital for the depot of the Isle of Wight, and perhaps to be from thence introduced into general use in military hospitals, and to report my sentiments as physician to the army;

“ I have not the smallest doubt in declaring, as a professional man, that the arrangement of diet as submitted to my consideration is much

too low, and this upon mature reflection. I objected while upon duty with Dr. Jackson, at His Majesty's general hospital at Chatham, to the diet in general use, conceiving that the wants of the patients were not there sufficiently supplied, that diseases, of debility especially, were much increased, and that the practice in the Hospital was upon a scale in general of too debilitating a tendency. I stated this in letters to the Physician-General, of May the 6th and 8th last, and in one of June 8th last, addressed to the Surgeon-General to the forces. I have also delivered my sentiments to Dr. Jackson.

" The arrangement of diet for the sick at the Isle of Wight, is considerably lower than that at Chatham, and in my opinion considerably more dangerous. The breakfast of the proposed diet table is too scanty for general use, and inadequate to supply the cravings of a soldier. The dinner may be admissible in full diet ; the supper deficient. The meat is presumed to be raw when weighed out ; nor is any allowance made for waste in dressing. I presume that eight ounces will not in fact produce much more than six. The allowance of small beer is much too small ; *only one pint per man daily.* As to the *half diet*, the same objections hold with redoubled force.

"Respecting 'the low diet' I have indeed little to observe; it would be insulting you by idly occupying your time in considering it, were I to detain you longer than to say that it *scarcely contains sufficient nutriment for an infant.*

"From personal observation I will take upon me to assert, that the greatest proportion of patients will be of those upon the low, the smallest upon the scale of *full diet.*

"Such is the diet proposed for the sick recruit, or the convalescent; for the man who is often previously debilitated by a long march, or who has recently been the sufferer under acute disease, and who upon recovery is liable to be immediately called upon to perform the active duties of a soldier; who is destined to undergo rapid changes of climate, and the fatigues of a campaign; he cannot upon this meagre diet, inadequate to his support, recover his strength; he requires occasional indulgences; he requires a liberal, generous treatment; his constitution must be invigorated by extra diet, and by comforts administered bountifully.

"Let me remark that Dr. Jackson makes no provision for 'extras;' he names entirely his scale of diet; and it appears to me from the omission of a column for extras, that it is in-

tended none should be given. No mention of wine, brandy, porter, or other cordials, which I aver are at least as requisite in the cure of diseases, *as any other medicines*, especially in the treatment of those diseases which are called *malignant*, and which seem, by the reports I have seen, to be prevalent at the Isle of Wight hospital. I appeal to every medical practitioner of science in support of my assertion.

" I have had much experience in the diseases of soldiers at home. I must deprecate the horrid ' system of depletion ; ' I am but too well aware of its dreadful tendency ; of its fatality : by a too free use of the lancet ; by warm bathing, instantly succeeded by cold bathing ; by strong emetics, drastic purges, mercurials, and low diet, sick are speedily reduced ; even Herculean strength would, must, soon sink under their baneful influence ! How much, how dreadfully, then must not their effects be increased when indiscriminately employed ; when, without reference to the constitution of the patient, the same means are adopted ; merely because the symptoms are the same, the same system of depletion is pursued ! *the loss of life must be prodigious.*

" The plan, however striking it may at first appear, has not even economy to recommend it ; it is in truth more expensive ; not to say one

word upon the foul inhumanity of such conduct. Patients are longer in a state of disease; relapses are more frequent; convalescence is retarded; the sick recover more slowly; are longer feeble: while by a liberal plan, the sick recover more speedily; relapses are rare; the convalescent is quickly improved into the healthy, active soldier, and this consistent with the utmost frugality—I doubt not with even a smaller expense, *eventually*, to Government, than the meagre plan; for, compare the loss to Government by long and frequent illnesses of soldiers, by tedious recoveries, by more frequent deaths, and that deaths will be more frequent, I unequivocally and unreservedly assert. Compare these with the effects of a free diet; the free use of wine, when requisite, tempered with prudent management. I risk myself on the result of the comparison: *the effect of the latter will be found the best economy.*

“ I have, &c.

“ J. C. MACLAURIN,

“ Physician on the Staff of the Forces.

“ To Sir Lucas Pepys, Bart.

T. Keate, Esq. and

J. Rush, Esq.”

*Letter from Hospital Mate Andrews to the
Army Medical Board.*

"Brompton, Kent,
Dec. 3, 1801.

"GENTLEMEN,

"Agreeable to your orders, I beg leave to say, that doing duty as hospital mate in the general military hospital at Chatham barracks, for three years, I had an opportunity of seeing the different treatment respecting the diet allowed to patients, with the effects produced, most particularly in the convalescent state.

"The late Dr. Mitchell's practice usually was, to allow patients coming into a convalescent state, eight ounces of meat for two or three days; afterwards one pound of meat, with the usual proportion of bread and potatoes, till they were dismissed the hospital; by which means they rapidly gained strength, and were soon able to do their duty, without falling into relapses: during the prevalence of fever, Dr. Mitchell always allowed a free use of wine, according to the exigencies of the patient, and afterwards a reasonable proportion of wine and

porter, according as the strength of the patient required, not limiting it to any stated rule.

" When Dr. Jackson succeeded to the charge of the hospital, the economy in the diet was very much reduced in all respects; sometimes eight ounces of meat, but oftener six ounces and four ounces of meat, were allowed to patients on recovering till their dismissal; they gained strength but slowly, and several relapsed before they were discharged from the hospital, and many relapsed afterwards, and it was long before many, who were discharged, recovered their strength. During fever Dr. Jackson allowed a very limited portion of wine, and in the recovery a small portion of porter, for a very few days, without wine; bread and potatoes were also limited; these allowances were fixed and determinate in all cases indiscriminately, as far as I could discover.

" On the removal of the depot to the Isle of Wight, Dr. Maclaurin had charge of the hospital for nearly three months, till the remainder of the troops were ordered away; his practice was nearly similar to the late Dr. Mitchell's, and was attended with remarkable success.

" This is the statement of facts as they occurred to me.

" I have the honor to be, Gentlemen,

" Your most obedient humble servant,

" T. W. ANDREWS.

" *To the Army Medical Board,
Berkeley Street, London.*"

*Letter from Hospital Mate Morison to the Army
Medical Board.*

" GENTLEMEN, London, Dec. 5, 1801.

" In answer to your questions respecting the diet and medical treatment of the patients in the general military hospital at Chatham, during the time I did duty there, under Dr. Jackson, I beg leave to state the following answers.

" The allowance of diet to convalescents, and such of the sick whom I attended, was too small, in consequence of which they remained long in hospital, and were more subject to relapse than where a fuller diet was used ; for I am of opinion that good nourishing diet, and occasional use of cordials, would have restored them sooner to health and strength, and have made relapses more rare, than where a low diet, such as to the convalescents in Chatham hospital,

was allowed. Indeed, the commissioned medical officer who attended the convalescents seemed to think so, for he would allow men recovering from fever, &c. &c. (and who, perhaps, had had frequent relapses), 'extras'; but an order was given by Mr. Borland that *no patient* in the convalescent hospital should have more than the *usual ration* of the hospital, making no allowance whatever for the weak and debilitated state which some of them were in, in consequence of the depletion they had undergone, when under his care in the sick hospital. In consequence of this order, *none* were allowed wine, &c.; hence the relapses, particularly in fever, became more frequent; recoveries slow and tedious; and even when dismissed, hardly able to do their duty as soldiers: and I dare say nobody but Mr. Borland would think the half, or even full diet of the hospital, was sufficient for a man recovering from a severe illness.

" You will see the different diets in the printed diet table of the hospital, to which I beg leave to refer, as I do not now recollect the exact quantity of each article.

" As to the medical treatment, I do not hesitate in saying, that as far as my observations extended, from occasionally visiting the patients

in the sick hospital, it was by no means such as I would have adopted in similar cases.

" This, Gentlemen, is all I can say on this subject, as my duty all the time I was at Chatham hospital, was confined to the No. 3, or convalescent hospital: therefore I can only speak with any degree of certainty of what fell within my own observation. At the beginning of this, I have said, such of the sick as I attended; these were the small-pox and measles patients, to whose use two wards were appropriated in the convalescent hospital, to prevent the necessity of taking them into the sick hospital where the contagion might have spread rapidly, but here they were kept quite by themselves. When the disease first made its appearance in the barracks, the patients were sent directly from the barracks to the wards in the convalescent hospital: the medical officers who *then* attended that hospital not being so fond of the lancet, as the gentleman I have already mentioned in this statement, did not lose, if I recollect properly (but I am not absolutely certain), a single patient in consequence of the *measles*, but after some time they were taken *first* into the sick hospital, and when the disease was marked beyond a doubt, they were sent to the measles wards in the convalescent hospital; in *most* or *all* of them the arm was tied up, and a wound was to be seen at

the bend of the arm, where we generally let blood ; hence it was supposed they had undergone that operation. Blood-letting, in general, is seldom or ever necessary in the beginning of measles, unless the symptoms of inflammation and affection of the chest be very violent, and these seldom come on till the disease is advanced ; hence it is generally believed that blood-letting in the beginning is seldom necessary, and should be reserved till symptoms come on which require it, lest by repeated bleedings we sink the strength too much to be able to bear the diarrhoea which very often follows this disease ; then a small blood-letting is of use. The patients which came directly from barracks to the measles wards, not one of them were bled, and they recovered without a single bad symptom, and in much shorter time than the others ; but, perhaps, the disease had become more violent, with the bad symptoms I have mentioned ; whether it was so or not I cannot say, as I never saw the patients till they came to the convalescent hospital, I only mention what I then saw.

“ I am, Gentlemen,

“ Your obedient servant,

“ CHARLES MORISON, M. D.

“ To the Army Medical Board.”

General Monthly Report of the Foreign Military Hospital at the Isle of Wight, from 20th September to 20th October 1801.

*Letter from the Special Medical Board to the
Secretary at War.*

“ Old Burlington Street,

“ Sir,

Dec. 24, 1801.

“ We have received the honor of your letter conveying to us the commands of His Royal Highness the Commander in Chief; and we have carefully perused the several papers annexed, as well as the letters of General Hewett.

“ In the letter addressed to you from the Physician and the Surgeon General, their animadversions on Dr. Jackson’s treatment of the sick appear to have arisen from the increase of mortality observed in the returns. This increased mortality is owing, or supposed to be owing to the change in the diet-table; and the peculiar medical treatment followed by Dr. Jackson, of which an account is given in the letters from Dr. Maclaurin.

“ To enable us to form a correct judgment on these points, we could wish to have copies of the table of diet as originally established, and of the table of diet as altered by Dr. Jackson. We wish, further, to have the returns of sick alluded to; and if these returns can be furnished for some time back, they may, perhaps,

be of use to us in forming our judgment. The return of the sick of the foreign military hospital, for only one month, supplies too scanty materials to afford any accurate conclusions.

" With regard to the medical treatment followed by Dr. Jackson, we have to observe that difference of opinion, on such a subject, can never be allowed to imply criminality. If Dr. Jackson be qualified for the commission he holds, he is entitled to make trial of such means of cure, either in diet, or in medicine, as he judges most likely to be successful. If any doubt arise how far his judgment may be influenced by attachment to any particular system, or opinion (such as his treatment by depletion), we conceive that the only judicious way of deciding upon a point of this kind is by experience, and fair trial. We do not, indeed, know of any other. The trial might easily be made. If Dr. Jackson take charge of one half of the patients in the hospital, and the two physicians (Dr. Sutton, and Dr. Rogerson), now in the Isle of Wight, take charge of the other half, distinct returns, from each, will soon demonstrate whether there be any thing in Dr. Jackson's practice that increases the mortality.

" The construction of the hospital being a point likewise referred to us, we could wish to be furnished with an outline of the plan, con-

taining the dimensions of the wards, &c. This, probably, can be had from the barrack board.

General Hewett's letters contain the most ample testimony of Dr. Jackson's diligence and zeal. They likewise speak in general terms of the defects and inconveniences of the barracks, and hospitals, at Parkhurst; and to these, together with the number of sick crowded into them, the General imputes the great mortality. As such causes are very adequate to the production of increased mortality, it is probable that representations may have been made on this head: if there be any correspondence on this subject, it were material that we should be acquainted with it.

"As soon as we shall have examined the papers with which we wish to be furnished, we will proceed without loss of time to an investigation on the spot.

"We have the honor to be, Sir,

"Your most obedient, and

"most humble servants,

"J. M. HAYES.

"J. HUNTER.

"J. WEIR.

"G. PINCKARD.

"The Right Hon. Charles Yorke,
Secretary at War, &c. &c. &c."

In compliance with the request of the Special Medical Board, returns of the hospital of the depot at Chatham, while under the care of Dr. Mitchell, Dr. Rogerson, and Dr. Jackson, were transmitted to them ; also returns of the hospital at the Isle of Wight, from the period of its establishment : and, as no objection was offered to the mode of trial, by which it was proposed to bring Dr. Jackson's professional practice to the fair test of experience, the Board considered the Secretary at War as acquiescing in their proposal.

Having passed several days in acquiring information upon the subject, on which His Royal Highness the Commander in Chief and the Secretary at War were pleased to command their services ; having examined the returns transmitted to them, and collected further useful remarks respecting the site of the buildings, and the nature of the ground, from officers, whose regiments had been quartered in the barracks, the Special Board proceeded, on the 29th of December, to the Isle of Wight to make their examination on the spot. But previous to their departure from London they received the following letter, from the Physician and Surgeon General, enclosing the copy of a letter, which had been

sent the preceding day to the Deputy Secretary at War.

*Letter from the Physician and Surgeon General
to the Special Medical Board.*

"Upper Brook Street,

"GENTLEMEN,

Dec. 29th, 1801.

"We beg leave to inform you, that there is an expression in the Secretary at War's letter to you, dated December 22d, viz. 'The Physician and Surgeon General of the Army having in an official letter to me *animadverted* on the treatment of the medical patients in the hospital of the Isle of Wight ;' which expression has induced us to send into the War Office this morning a letter, of which the enclosed is a copy.

"It will be necessary likewise to request your attention to the letters, and extracts of letters, which have passed to and from Dr. Jackson since he succeeded Dr. Mitchell ; and we particularly request your attention to a letter dated July 4th, 1801.

"For your further information we think it necessary to state, that the 'amount' of the deaths during the last month of the *whole* of

the Army both in regimental and general hospitals at home, exclusive of the Isle of Wight general hospital, are only 36, from a number of patients amounting to 2400, whereas 39 deaths have occurred in that hospital during the same period out of only 339 patients.

“ We have the honor to be, Gentlemen,

“ Your obedient humble servants,

“ L. PEPYS.

“ T. KEATE.

“ Sir John M. Hayes, Bart. Dr. John Hunter,
Dr. Pinckard, and John Weir, Esq.”

*Letter from the Physician and Surgeon General
to the Deputy Secretary at War.*

“ Upper Brook Street;

“ SIR, 28th Dec. 1801.

“ We have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th instant, and we beg leave humbly to represent for the consideration of His Royal Highness the Commander in Chief, and of the Secretary at War, that it does not occur to us that in our letter of the 10th inst. we *animadverted on the practice* of Dr. Jackson, at the Isle of Wight, but we thought it our duty to represent the great mor-

tality there, and consequently animadverted on the success of the practice; or otherwise, we must appear to His Royal Highness to prejudge Dr. Jackson, and to pass a censure where, from our not having witnessed or investigated Dr. Jackson's practice, we might do an act of injustice; we hope you will pardon the liberty we have taken in referring to the above expression in your letter, and we humbly conceive that the Secretary at War will not disapprove of this explanation.

" We have the honor to be,

" &c. &c. &c.

" L. PEPYS.

" M. Lewis, Esq.

" T. KEATE.

&c. &c. &c."

The distinction which is offered, in this letter, of animadverting upon the success of the practice, and not upon the practice itself, although it somewhat changed the nature of the charge against Dr. Jackson, as contained in the letter of Dec. 10th, 1801, did not call for any alteration in the plan proposed by the Special Board, which was calculated to bring both the merits of the practice, and the success of it, at once, to issue.

Early on the morning of the 30th of De-

cember the Board arrived at the Isle of Wight, and, without delay, proceeded to an examination of the hospital. Dr. Jackson, who had been apprized of their coming, both by the Secretary at War, and the Board, was in readiness to attend them. They saw every patient in the hospital ; and, of some of the more serious cases they examined the symptoms, and inquired into the treatment. The articles of diet were submitted to their inspection ; and their questions, of every kind, were answered in a manner equally candid and unassuming. So far was Dr. Jackson from making any attempt to lead their judgment, that he did scarcely more than reply to their inquiries. After examining every ward and apartment in the hospital, and the ground about it, they proceeded to an examination of the barracks, and the ground about these, accompanied by Lieutenant Colonel Farquhar, the military Deputy Inspector of the depot ; who was good enough to conduct them through the barracks, and to answer all their inquiries. He also gave them a letter* from

* Letter from Major General Hewett to Sir John Hayes, Bart.

"SIR, Isle of Wight, Dec. 30th, 1801.

"On the 23d instant I received the notification of the Secretary at War of your intended arrival at this depot,

General Hewett, who had committed his thoughts to writing upon several of the matters

and yesterday's post brought me the papers marked 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, all of which have been in your possession; as they contain some severe imputations on the professional skill and practice of Dr. Jackson, accompanied with assertions that the sick under his care have been treated with *foul inhumanity*, I consider it a duty I owe the Doctor's character to state to you the regulations which govern the duties of this depot (which statement I herewith enclose, No. 9), and which have been in force ever since I have been with it. They will furnish you with the most satisfactory evidence the inquiry can receive.

"With respect to the medical treatment of the sick, I cannot be supposed capable of forming any opinion, much less should I think of offering one; yet whilst I continue to place in Dr. Jackson's hands, my own life and the lives of my family, *my* belief that his skill is equal to his zeal and assiduity cannot be doubted, and I shall always feel a pleasure in gratefully declaring my conviction, that his judgment and attention have been the means of rescuing many of us from serious disorders; but though I readily acknowledge my ignorance respecting the cure of disease, I have been too long in the habit of observing the causes which produce it in soldiers, to feel any hesitation in pointing out what I conceive to be the occasions of its increase in Parkhurst barracks. Among the first of these may be reckoned the low situation of the barracks and hospital, the extreme bad nature of the soil on which they stand, a clay so tenacious as to retain on its surface every drop of water which falls on it, and incapable of draining or improvement; the barracks (which are besides defective in general

referred to the Board : and, before they quitted the ground, the General joined them in person.

arrangement and construction) are in consequence unavoidably covered with mud and dirt, and filled with damp and unwholesome air; the hospital partakes in a great degree of these disadvantages, though every precaution is used to mitigate them, as Dr. Jackson will more clearly point out; it is extremely crowded, so much so, that the worst cases only can be received into it; and when convalescent, the men cannot be dismissed early, for if permitted to go out in the damp and wet which surrounds them, a relapse and death are generally the consequence; rooms in the barracks have been allotted for the slighter cases and convalescent men; but as these open immediately to the external air, have their gable ends pointed to the south, and are destitute of colonades, pavement, or flags for dry exercise; partaking of all the disadvantages of a camp, which they resemble more than a barrack; they are in the highest degree unfavourable for recovery. To these causes may be added the assembling so very numerous a collection of men of every bad description from jails, crowded transports, foreign climates and service; they are unavoidably mixed with young recruits in the fullest habits of health, and the latent infection brought by these people appears too late to prevent its being communicated: thus disease spreads rapidly; for the number of men placed in the sleeping-rooms must evidently tend to promote contagion.

" From the failure of one of the two pumps in the barracks, water has been brought from the river; this too may be unwholesome.

" In visiting the hospital, which I have always done at uncertain times, I have constantly witnessed the utmost

They next visited the Medina hospital in which were the surgical and venereal cases of

order and cleanliness. I am always ready to listen to every complaint the soldiers may wish to prefer; and previous to his leaving the depot every one is called upon to state to the officer who receives him whether he has any cause of complaint, and the officer is required to sign a certificate that he has none, otherwise the man is detained and the grievance fully redressed. Not the slightest has ever reached me against Dr. Jackson or any officer of his staff, either directly, or through Colonel Farquhar, who has the immediate command of the interior management of this depot, or by any other channel; and this proves, I think, incontestably, that the men do not consider themselves as *inhumanly* treated, and I firmly believe that could I descend to canvass opinion, or solicit complaint from them, I should meet only expressions of thankfulness for Dr. Jackson's kind and anxious solicitude for their health and welfare: on this subject, however, you shall have the most ample means of information; every staff officer and every soldier shall be at your command for examination, and if you can point out any other mode of inquiry, it shall readily be open to you, for I wish to challenge inspection into every the most minute point which can bear on the subject which brings you here, and which I consider as embracing the means of preventing as well as checking disease, or I should not have troubled you or myself with this detail.

" It may be right for me here to observe on the letter marked No. 1, that it gave occasion to an address from the Medical Board to me, when at Chatham, No. 12; and on my giving an answer, the copy of which is herewith enclosed, No. 10, it produced a visit from the Surgeon-General,

disease. By the time they had finished the last mentioned inspection the night approached, and it was nearly dark.

whose arrival was most properly unexpected ; he was on the instant taken to every ward in the general hospital, he had an opportunity of seeing and examining most minutely into every circumstance which he required, or could possibly be pointed out to him, and on my then desiring to know whether any thing was defective in the power of my authority to correct or provide, he declared in the presence of Dr. Jackson, and Surgeon Warren, his unqualified satisfaction at every thing he had seen ; the diet made a part of his examination, and in which were many deviations from the printed form (some of them the consequence of his own recommendation to Dr. Jackson) ; and neither then nor since, until the arrival of the Secretary at War's letter of the 22d inst. did I ever learn that the Medical Board had any objection to them ; it is certain that they have been in its possession for many months, and the Medical Board could not be unacquainted with Dr. Jackson's practice at that time, or previous to it, for it is in print ; I cannot, therefore, but be surprised to find that complaint making a part of the present charge.

" The irregular mode in which the business of the hospital was carried on, after its arrival in this island, was owing to circumstances not in our power to prevent, and which are stated in my letter to the War Office, No. 11, so long ago as the 1st Nov. Dr. Jackson will explain to you better than I can do the difficulties he had to encounter previous to that period ; I mention it only to shew that it was necessity, not choice, which occasioned any transaction to take place not strictly conformable with his usual mode of proceeding, and no blame can attach to him, as he never con-

At seven o'clock they resumed their business by examining the hospital books ; each member taking a separate book, and going over the cases, calling the attention of the Board to whatever appeared deserving of notice. After this was done Dr. Jackson waited upon the

cealed any thing that was done or doing, but on the contrary produced it for public examination and approval or rejection.

"I have perhaps gone to a length on this subject which may be thought unnecessary ; for to the Medical Board alone, I conceive, belongs the regulation of the army hospitals as far as relates to the medical treatment of the sick, and to them alone must attach responsibility for whatever they are or can be acquainted with. Mr. Keate's approbation on a former occasion, and the subsequent silence of the board, certainly implied an acquiescence in Dr. Jackson's practice.

"Among the other remedies which may occur to you for giving a temporary melioration to the state of the barracks, the increasing the allowance of coals for the sitting rooms during the wet and winter months, and the use of stoves for drying the air of the sleeping rooms in the day, may not be unworthy of your consideration.

"Doubtful, from indisposition and other causes, of being able to see you this day, I have committed to paper what I should otherwise have said, and have the honor to remain,

"Sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

"S. HEWETT, M. G.

"Sir J. M. Hayes, Bart.

"&c. &c. &c."

Board by appointment, for the purpose of answering such inquiries as they might think necessary to make, whether arising out of their inspection of the hospital, the examination of the books, or other matters. Dr. Sutton and Dr. Rogerson also attended the Board.

It was late at night when Dr. Jackson, and the other physicians, left them ; but of so much importance did they deem the subject upon which they were employed, that they continued in serious deliberation until between two and three o'clock in the morning ; and a sketch of the following letter to the Secretary at War was drawn out before the board broke up, in order that it might be in readiness for the earliest post.

*Letter from the Special Medical Board to the
Secretary at War.*

" SIR, *Isle of Wight, Dec. 31, 1801.*

" We have the honor to state, for your information, that we are proceeding with all possible dispatch, in the necessary inquiries respecting the several circumstances referred to our consideration by your letter of Dec. 22d ; but as we find that some days must be occupied in arranging the materials we have col-

lected, so as to enable us to present a full and correct report, for the information of His Royal Highness the Commander in Chief, and yourself, we think it essential to His Majesty's service that we should lose no time in communicating to you our opinion on a point of high importance, and which calls for immediate attention, viz. the over-crowded state of the hospitals; and we are the more desirous to avoid a moment of delay, as this is a principal cause of the increased mortality, which has been lately observed among the troops in the Isle of Wight.

" We think it requisite, that a part of the sick should be immediately removed, in order to give convenient room for the accommodation and treatment of the numerous cases of disease which are daily brought into the hospitals; and the most ready means of relief that suggests itself to us on this head, is, to remove those men who labour under slight complaints, and who may be conveyed without injury, from the Medina hospital, and the hospital at Parkhurst, to the general military hospital at Gosport, where, we understand, there is plenty of room for their accommodation.

" Should this arrangement meet His Royal Highness's and your approbation, we think it

advisable that the necessary instructions for carrying it into effect, should be forthwith transmitted.

“ We have the honor to be, Sir,

“ Your most obedient and

“ most humble servants,

“ J. M. HAYES.

“ J. HUNTER.

“ J. WEIR.

“ G. PINCKARD.

“ *The Right Honorable C. Yorke,
Secretary at War, &c. &c.*”

The Special Board had the satisfaction to receive the subjoined reply :

*Letter from the Deputy Secretary at War to the
Special Medical Board.*

“ SIR, War Office, January 1, 1802.

“ I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of the letter, dated yesterday, signed by you and the other members of the Medical Board, now sitting in the Isle of Wight, and to acquaint you, that the Secretary of War has, in consequence, desired Major General Hewett to cause the necessary steps to be taken for

carrying the measure therein proposed into execution with all practicable dispatch.

"Mr. Yorke has further apprised Major General Whitelocke of the above, and has requested him to give orders for the reception of the sick from the Isle of Wight into the Gosport hospital accordingly.

"I have the honor to be, Sir,

"Your most obedient humble servant,

"M. LEWIS.

"Sir John Macnamara Hayes, Bart.

&c. &c. &c. Isle of Wight."

At nine o'clock in the morning of the 31st of December, Drs. Jackson, Rogerson, and Sutton, waited upon the board to answer their further inquiries; and Dr. Jackson not objecting to allow the two other gentlemen to take their share of the business of the hospital, it was understood that they were immediately to enter upon their duty.

After Drs. Rogerson and Sutton were dismissed, the board inquired of Dr. Jackson, if he was acquainted with the contents of their letter of the 24th of December, to the Secre-

tary at War, in which they had proposed what appeared to them to be the best and fairest method of bringing to issue the question of practice, by instituting a comparison between the success of his treatment of diseases, and that of the other physicians. To this he replied that he had received a copy of the letter from the Secretary at War.

The board expressed to Dr. Jackson the importance which they attached to establishing this comparison ; and, a rumour having reached them that he intended to resign his appointment at the depot, they recommended to him not to do so until the trial had been made. In this proceeding they were actuated no less by motives of justice to Dr. Jackson, than by a due consideration of the interest of the public.

Having dismissed Dr. Jackson, the board found that no point remained on which they required to satisfy themselves by further investigation upon the spot ; they, consequently, adjourned their meeting to London, and left the island about mid-day on the 31st of December 1801.

After their return to London, several days were employed in framing their report, from the various materials which they had collected,

and the observations they had made. On the 8th of January 1802 it was transmitted to the Secretary at War : and thus, after a close attention of seventeen days, ended the business of the Special Board.

We feel that some excuse may be necessary to the reader for detailing so minutely the manner in which we were employed, during the time we were engaged in executing the important duty for which we were constituted a Special Board ; and, particularly, from the hour of our arrival in the Isle of Wight until our departure. Our apology is, that we are charged, at this remote period, with not having employed a sufficient length of time to do our business. It is by no means our intention to deprecate censure, under a pretence of being straightened for time ; nor on that ground do we lay claim to any excuse for defects in our report : we left the island neither from haste nor want of time, but because we thought that nothing remained undone, which we came there to do ; and we humbly hope that it cannot be made matter of reproach to us, that we were diligent and assiduous in the performance of our duty.

The following extract is taken from Mr. Keate's book, and the reader will judge, from

the documents already given, and the report which is placed immediately after, how far he is warranted to speak of the proceedings of the board in the manner he has done.

Extract from "Observations by T. Keate, Esq." Appendix, No. 8.

"In consequence of the letter above alluded to, from the Army Medical Board to the Secretary at War, of the 25th of December 1801, four gentlemen who had filled respectable offices in the army medical department (and of whom two had served with Drs. Jackson and Borland at St. Domingo) were selected, and sent to the Isle of Wight, for the purpose of making an inquiry concerning the subject of that letter. This inquiry accordingly took place, but it was made completely *ex parte*; as the gentlemen who were to report on the subject had not only been appointed without any reference to the Medical Board, but had avoided all communication with the members of it, as well as with Dr. Maclaurin, Mr. Andrews, and Mr. Morison. They passed one night only on the Isle of Wight, and were about

three hours employed in examining what related to the hospital, where Dr. Jackson, after timely notice of their visit, had prepared matters for their inspection, and where he explained every thing as he pleased, without even the chance of contradiction from any person.

" That a report thus hastily made, after an inquiry under such circumstances, should not have been satisfactory to the Army Medical Board, will not appear extraordinary, considering that though one of its members (myself) had personally inspected the hospital at Chatham, whilst under Dr. Jackson's management; and though they possessed returns, with other documents and evidence connected with its management for many months, no information was received or desired from any of the board. With Dr. Jackson's help, however, the reporters found various causes both of disease and of mortality at the Isle of Wight; though they were nearly such as applied to all general and regimental hospitals in Great Britain, in which no similar mortality had occurred; and though in regard to the hospital at Chatham, if the mortality under Dr. Mitchell and Dr. Rogerson in the years 1799 and 1800 had been compared with that under Dr. Jackson in 1801, the re-

sult would have been at least as two to one in favour of the former. On the subject, however, of mal-practice, the reporters say, ‘ We examined minutely the hospital books,’ (how was this possible in so short a time, with so many other things to examine?) ‘ in which the medicines ordered for the sick are entered. Such registers we do not think alone sufficient to furnish evidence for giving a judgment on the practice of a physician. For this purpose indeed we do not know any other means than those stated in our first letter to you. But the register was sufficient to convince us that there was no ground for the charge contained in Dr. MacLaurin’s letter of the universal and indiscriminate use of blood-letting, and some other remedies therein mentioned. Dr. Jackson further stated to us, and that upon probable ground, that Dr. MacLaurin had no adequate means of knowing or judging of his (Dr. Jackson’s) practice. We did not receive equal satisfaction to our inquiries, why Dr. MacLaurin was not allowed to take his proportion of the hospital duty at Chatham; for judging as we do, that Dr. Jackson’s practice could only be decided upon by fair and full trial, we are equally of opinion that Dr. MacLaurin’s practice was entitled to the

' same indulgence (or more properly justice) from Dr. Jackson; and that no difference of opinion on points of practice should have prevented Dr. Maclaurin from taking his proportion of the duty; but not having the means of investigating fully the causes of the misunderstanding between Dr. Jackson and Dr. Maclaurin, from this last gentleman not being on the spot, we forbear to give any further opinion upon the subject.'

" But though Dr. Jackson's conduct in depriving Dr. Maclaurin of that participation in the treatment of the sick which the board intended, and had expressly directed that he should have, was blamed in the report, yet no notice was taken therein of the insubordination and disobedience with which he had persisted to employ as a physician, Dr. Borland, a mere surgeon, who had never been in any way examined respecting his knowledge of physic, not even when he was made an hospital mate. Yet the reporters thought proper to notice ' the mischievous effects of various kinds, that must arise from application to officers in inferior stations, for their opinion and judgment of their superiors.' This observation related to what they supposed our deviation from the strict rules of military discipline, in

taking the evidence of medical officers, who were subordinate to Dr. Jackson; on subjects so important to the welfare of the army, and the lives of the sick soldiers, of which, one at least of those officers (Dr. Maclaurin), appeared better qualified to judge than Dr. Jackson, being several years his senior as a physician, and with the advantage of a much better education. They, however, disapproved of Dr. Jackson's diet-table, and it was discontinued."

*Report of the Special Medical Board, transmitted
to the Secretary of War, Jan. 8, 1802.*

"SIR,

"After maturely considering all the papers that have been submitted to us; and after inspecting the hospitals and barracks at Parkhurst, in the Isle of Wight, and inquiring upon the spot into every circumstance that appeared to be connected with the subject referred to us; we beg leave to submit to His Royal Highness the Commander in Chief, and yourself, the following observations:

"We found the hospitals at Parkhurst clean, in good order, and every thing well arranged for taking care of the sick, as far as the size of the

buildings would admit ; for, notwithstanding many were left in the barracks who ought to have been in the hospital, several of the wards were greatly over-crowded.

" We found the mortality lately prevailing to be owing to several diseases, chiefly fevers, dysenteries, inflammations of the lungs, measles, and scarlet fever. The dysenteries, and many of the fevers, are the effects of the encampment that was established during the autumn, and which remained for a considerable time upon the same ground ; the inflammations of the lungs arise from the present inclement season ; the measles are at this time epidemic in the Isle of Wight, and are also, as well as the scarlet fever, kept up by personal infection in the depot. Those diseases would at any time prove the cause of considerable mortality, but their destructive effects are greatly increased by the foul air of the crowded wards of the hospital, which aggravates all their symptoms, and renders them, though simple and mild on their first admission, in the end malignant, and fatal. Considerable sickness has often prevailed in the depot, arising out of the nature of the subjects it contained (young and unseasoned recruits) : yet the concurrence of all the causes of mortality above stated has probably never happened

before; particularly the camp diseases, dysenteries and remittent fevers (called gastric fevers in the returns), and the prevalence of measles, at a season of the year so unfavourable to those attacked by that disease. In these circumstances, and another, which is by no means to be overlooked, that is, the increased number.* of men in the depot, we think we see causes adequate to the mortality that has taken place,

* In the statement of the depot furnished us, the monthly numbers, added together, for the year 1800, amount to 20,000.

In the year 1801, they are about 28,000; the annual average therefore for the year 1800 is 1767, and of the year 1801, 2433.

In the month of December just concluded they are 3517, which is above 500 more than at any former period. The increased mortality has only taken place since the cold weather commenced, as will appear by the numbers extracted from the returns stated below:

		Number in the Dépot.	Died.
1801.	August	2087	4
	September	2896	9
	October	2960	13
	November	2848	27
	December	3517	39

The number in the depot, taken on an average of the four last months, is 3055, in which time the increased mortality has principally taken place.

and which will probably continue for some time longer, particularly if the weather prove severe.

" The opinion we have stated of the causes of mortality will, of itself, remove much of the suspicion, if any such existed, of improper practice in the treatment of diseases by Dr. Jackson. On this subject we feel called upon to express ourselves hypothetically, because, though the letter * of the Physician-General and Surgeon-General did appear to us, as it seems to have done to you, to convey some such suspicion, yet the subsequent letter † of those gentlemen (of which they were so good as to send us a copy), by totally disavowing any such meaning, leaves no doubt upon that head.

" We directed our attention particularly to the diet of the sick, and inquired into the alterations which Dr. Jackson had made in the table of diet. We found his low diet, and middle diet, including the extra articles of wine, tea, porter, &c. &c. and which are directed according to circumstances, to be framed with judgment; but the full diet we think ought to be one pound of bread, one pound of meat, and one quart of beer, daily, as in the general table of diet; and if any deduction of

* Dated Dec. 10. P. 13. † Dated Dec. 28. P. 36.

bread be made, for every ounce taken from the pound, three ounces of potatoes should be allowed. This full diet should extend to all the servants of the hospital. At the same time that we give our opinion against the alteration in the full diet, we think it proper to remark, that we do not impute any part of the relapses or mortality to this alteration; because the mortality has proceeded chiefly from diseases in which such a change of diet could have had no bad effect; and because we see the principal causes of relapse to be in the foul air of a crowded hospital and barracks, and the inclemency of the weather, aggravated by scanty clothing; for such we must consider the hospital dress for those convalescents who are allowed to go into the open air. The alterations made in the diet-table by Dr. Jackson we judge to have proceeded from the best motives; and the diminution of bread he stated to us to have been first tried at the suggestion of the Surgeon-General.

" We examined minutely the hospital books in which the medicines ordered for the sick are entered. Such registers we do not think alone sufficient to furnish evidence for giving a judgment on the practice of a physician. For this purpose, indeed, we do not know any other

means than those stated in our first letter to you. But the register was sufficient to convince us, that there was no ground for the charge contained in Dr. Maclaurin's letter, of the universal and indiscriminate use of blood-letting, and some other remedies therein mentioned *. Dr. Jackson further stated to us, and that upon probable grounds, that Dr. Mac- laurin had no adequate means of knowing, or judging, of his (Dr. Jackson's) practice. We did not receive equal satisfaction to our inquiries, why Dr. Maclaurin was not allowed to take his proportion of the hospital duty at Chatham. For judging as we do, that Dr. Jackson's prac- tice could only be decided upon by fair and full trial, we are equally of opinion that Dr. Mac- laurin's practice was entitled to the same indul- gence (or, more properly, justice) from Dr. Jackson ; and that no difference of opinion on

* We have extracted from the weekly returns, beginning November 6, 1801, and ending December 24, the num- ber of fevers admitted, with the number that proved fatal ; and this we compared with a return of the late Dr. Mitchell, made in the year 1794, containing the number of fevers admitted during six months, and the number of deaths from that disease. The proportion of deaths is nearly the same, being about one in ten in Dr. Mitchell's return, and one in eleven nearly, in the abstract made from Dr. Jackson's re- turns.

points of practice should have prevented Dr. Maclaurin from taking his proportion of the duty. But not having the means of investigating fully the causes of the misunderstanding between Dr. Jackson and Dr. Maclaurin, from this last-mentioned gentleman not being upon the spot, we forbear to give any further opinion upon the subject. To our inquiries why Drs. Sutton and Rogerson had not been employed, Dr. Jackson said, that understanding an inspection of the hospital, and an inquiry into the state of the sick, was about to be instituted, he judged it right that no material alteration should be made till after that inspection had taken place; now he expresses his readiness immediately to give those two physicians the care of a proportion of the sick in hospital.

"We feel ourselves called upon, in justice, to say, that Dr. Jackson appeared to us a zealous, diligent, and meritorious servant of the public, and full of humanity in the discharge of his duty.

"We proceed to state our observations on the situation and construction of the barracks and hospital. The situation we believe to be perfectly healthy; for we found no diseases that could be imputed to any thing unhealthy in the surrounding country. The ground is high, be-

ing, we conjecture, nearly 200 feet above the level of the sea. There is a descent from the barracks to the hospital, from the hospital to the house of industry, and, from this last, all the way to the hospital called the Medina-Mill ; which is placed over part of the river. But even at the Medina hospital, though so much lower, and in the midst of the mud that is left exposed at low water, we found no diseases that could be imputed to unhealthy situation. The soil upon which the barracks and hospital stand is a stiff clay, which retains every drop of water that falls upon it ; though it be high, it is not therefore dry, except during the summer months. This circumstance renders the ground about the barracks and hospital extremely dirty in wet weather ; and would be a serious objection to the situation, if we did not think that this inconvenience might be remedied without much trouble or expense. The natural slope of the ground from the barracks and hospital renders it easy to form drains for carrying off the water ; and the surface of the barrack yard, the streets between the buildings, and indeed every part where the men have occasion to walk, should be covered with a thick coat of gravel.. This is, in part, done upon the parade.

“ The hospital is well constructed, and the

wards are of good dimensions, but the building is a great deal too small: the barracks will hold 3000 men, and considering that far the greater part of that number must be young recruits, and therefore liable to sickness, the hospital ought to be of sufficient size to contain at least 300 men. It only holds 125. The wards are large, the walls very thin; and there are many windows in each ward; from these circumstances it is scarcely possible to warm them sufficiently in cold weather. As remedies for these evils, we would recommend that each ward be divided by a partition into two *; that in each of the wards, thus divided, there be a common iron stove, with an iron tube to carry off the smoke; that there be coverings for the windows, made of thick baize, or coarse blanketing, stretched upon a frame of the size of the window, and capable of being applied close to the windows, and which may be used more or less according to the severity of the weather. We do not think this sort of covering for the windows so good as double sashes, but it may be had immediately, and we are doubtful whether the

* By this means the separation of the sick might be more perfect and commodious. The wards would still contain eleven or twelve beds each, a sufficient number for any one ward.

thinness of the walls would admit of double sashes. The wards ought to have piazzas before them, that there might be a covered place for the convalescents to walk in ; there ought to be a foot-path, paved with brick, round the court-yard, and the court-yard should be well covered with gravel. Great coats should be provided for the hospital, to be used by such convalescents as are allowed to go into the open air, and who happen not to have any other clothing but an hospital dress. The kitchen is too small, and there is no drying-room annexed to the place for washing ; there should be a cistern to the well, from which water should be laid by pipes into the kitchen, wash-house, &c. &c. In the barracks also there should be cisterns to the pumps, and we are somewhat doubtful, whether two pumps are quite sufficient for the supply of so great a number as 3000 men. A tank might be formed near the barracks, which would supply water for many useful purposes ; and a cistern to each pump would make the supply of water regular and copious ; but still, if there should be any want of water, another well might be sunk. The water from the wells is of a good quality.

"The barracks consist of eating rooms, sleeping rooms, and cooking places. The experi-

ence of several years has shewn the advantages of this arrangement. But as the men sleep in tiers one over the other, being almost as much crowded as on board of ship, the same regulations are required with regard to cleanliness (such as daily sweeping, scraping, washing, fumigating, and ventilating), as those observed on board of ships of war, to preserve the health of the men. Such regulations are obviously more difficult to be carried completely into execution with recruits, who are constantly changing, than with old established regiments. It is not necessary for us to enlarge on this subject; and we need only add, that the fumigations ought to be frequent, at least twice a week. The best materials, as well as the cheapest, for fumigating, are a mixture of brimstone and sawdust. During the fumigation the apartment ought to be completely shut up.

" Besides covering every part of the soil within the barracks with gravel, and constructing proper drains for conveying off the water, we would further recommend that a piece of ground be enclosed for a garden; and that a portion of the adjoining forest be smoothed and formed into exercising ground. It would contribute equally to the health and comfort of the men, to employ part of their time in work of

this kind. If it be intended to make a permanent establishment at Parkhurst, there ought certainly to be houses for the medical officers at or near the hospital.

" We have taken no notice of two letters, one from Mr. Andrews *, and another from Mr. Morrison †, and we wish we could, consistently with our duty, entirely pass them over in silence. They contain the observations, we may say criticisms, of those gentlemen upon Dr. Jackson's practice, and they state, that they write in compliance with the orders of the Army Medical Board. We cannot help thinking that the Army Medical Board have not sufficiently adverted to the mischievous effects of various kinds that must arise from applications to officers in inferior stations for their opinion and judgment of their superiors ; more particularly when the application proceeds from those who have the disposal of all medical promotion in their hands. We would recommend, that instead of such proceeding, if the increase of sickness or mortality, or any other causes, shall give rise to suspicion, that the Physician-General, or Surgeon-General, or both, according to the nature of the case, should themselves investi-

* Acting Hospital Mate.

† Hospital Mate.

gate the matter on the spot, as the surest means of finding a remedy for the evil.

"The result of our best endeavours and diligence to investigate the matters submitted to us we have stated as concisely as possible. We have endeavoured to guide ourselves equally by a due regard to the interest of the public, and by the strictest attention to justice; and if it can give any weight to our opinions, we think it right to say, that we have been unanimous in every thing we have advanced. We are well aware that there may be points upon which we may not have been so full and explicit as may be wished; but we shall be ready at all times to give any further information in our power.

"We have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed) " JOHN MACNAMARA HAYES.
 " JOHN HUNTER.
 " JOHN WEIR.
 " GEORGE PINCKARD.

"January 8, 1802.

"The Right Hon. Charles Yorke,
 Secretary at War, &c. &c. &c."

CONCLUSION.

The Report and documents we leave to speak for themselves, and have only a few words to add in explanation of some particular points.

The weighty part of the charge brought against Dr. Jackson, in the letter of the Physician and Surgeon General of the 10th of December 1801, being abandoned in their letter of the 29th of December, and the ground of inquiry, as relating to his conduct, being thereby limited to the causes only of the great mortality, the Special Medical Board being well aware that great mortality often proceeded from circumstances beyond the controul of the ablest medical abilities, were of opinion, that they could not better illustrate this matter, than by a comparison of the depot hospital at two different periods ; both of them times of unusual sickness, and the sickness proceeding from nearly the same diseases, viz. from fevers, small-pox, measles, and inflammation of the lungs.

Dr. Mitchell's returns, in 1794, were laid before the Special Medical Board by one of the members, who had repeatedly visited the hospital at Chatham during that year. The comparison shews that there had been periods of as great

sickness and mortality, in the depot, as in 1801 ; and this was all that was meant to be inferred from the returns ; for they could not furnish any just ground of comparison respecting the professional abilities of Dr. Mitchell and Dr. Jackson, because the epidemics were different both in time and place ; and any one to whose lot it has fallen to treat epidemic diseases must know how much, in different seasons and in different situations, the same disease varies as to mortality. This was seen in a remarkable manner in the measles which prevailed during the last winter. It is not probable that Dr. Jackson can be ignorant of this fact ; and if not, it will be difficult to acquit him of want of candour in the use he has made of the statement given by the Special Medical Board, of the mortality under Dr. Mitchell in 1794. The comparison was made between two periods of unusual sickness and mortality : and the mortality, in the former, was found to be in the proportion of 1 in 10 ; in the latter, of 1 in 11. But Dr. Jackson takes the mortality of 1 in 10 of the year 1794, and compares it with a period in 1801, which was not unhealthy, and during which he states the mortality *in fevers* to have been as 1 in 32* ;

* Vide Dr. Jackson's "Remarks, &c." page 130. London, 1803.

inferring therefrom a superiority in favour of his own practice as 3 to 1. He also takes another period; of which much the greater part was healthy, from July to December 1801, and from that obtains the proportion of 1 in 23, being, still, more than double that of 1 in 10. But in these statements the fallacy of comparing healthy with unhealthy periods is not the only one; there is a still greater source of error; for, in the returns of Dr. Jackson, from which the Special Board made their comparison, were comprehended under the general head of *fever*, small-pox, measles, scarlet fever, inflammation of the lungs, &c. &c. The Board therefore included the same diseases in making the comparison from Dr. Mitchell's returns of 1794. But if Table V.* at the end of Dr. Jackson's book be examined, it will be seen that he makes out the proportion of 1 in 32, and of 1 in 23, from what he calls *continued fever*, leaving out measles, small-pox, scarlet fever, pneumonia, and other acute diseases, although these were evidently the principal causes of mortality. Here, then, are comparisons formed neither upon periods similar as to health, nor upon the same disorders. From such an use of returns any inferences may be deduced at pleasure. Mr.

* Vide Dr. Jackson's "Remarks, &c." London, 1803.

Keate likewise attempts, upon more occasions than one, by a similar use of returns, to shew the inferiority of Dr. Jackson's practice *. But if the argument in one case be bad, so it must in the other. It can furnish no ground either for establishing the superiority or inferiority of medical practice. It misleads the public; and the source of the fallacy is such as cannot be detected by common readers, for which reason it was thought to be a point that called for particular explanation.

The comparison appears to be equally objectionable, on which Dr. Jackson has endeavoured to establish the superiority of his practice over the physicians, who succeeded him at the hospital of the depot; and we are led to notice this, because in our report, p. 57, after stating the causes of mortality, we observed that it was likely "the mortality would continue some time longer, particularly if the weather proved severe †." This we did to prevent undue blame from being attached to Dr. Jackson, or any other physician who might have the care of the sick at the depot: and what was meant in justice to him, should be equally extended to those who followed him.

* Vide Letter, Dec. 29, 1801; and Extract, p. 51.

† Vide Report.

We might rest our justification against Mr. Keate's aspersions, on the documents already given, which we hope will evince that we transacted the business committed to us neither hastily nor superficially. Of this, perhaps, no better proof can be adduced than that not one fact or opinion, expressed in any of our communications to the Secretary at War, has been controverted, or shewn to be erroneous. To those who keep this in mind, it will, probably, appear, that the reproach of our having made the inspection in so short a time is a high commendation. But the stile of Mr. Keate's attack upon the Special Board is so peculiar, correctness of statement is so completely discarded, and causes of complaint so entirely devoid of truth and reason are assumed, that we entreat the reader's patience while we examine, in detail, one or two sentences. "*This inquiry,*" he remarks (of the Special Medical Board), "*accordingly took place, but it was made completely ex parte.*" And he adds, that it was so because "*the gentlemen who were to report on the subject, had not only been appointed without any reference to the Medical Board, but had avoided all communication with the members of it.*" The manner in which the Special Medical Board was appointed is before the public. If the

Army Medical Board were aggrieved by it, what singular logic can lead them to infer that the inquiry was therefore *ex parte*? But it is further asserted, that we “*avoided all communication with the members.*” We neither courted, nor declined communication; and their letter of the 29th of December, p. 35, will prove that they had no difficulty in communicating with us when they wished it. Extracts from other letters were likewise received from them. It will appear, by their letter of the 29th of December, how completely they changed, or rather withdrew, their accusation against Dr. Jackson. What question could remain for the Special Medical Board to ask them after that communication?

To proceed with the next sentence. “*They passed one night only on the Isle of Wight, and were about three hours employed in examining what related to the hospital.*” It has been already stated in what manner every hour was employed: but what is it to the purpose whether we passed one night, or one month, on the Isle of Wight? We did the duty for which our services were commanded; and if we were guilty of errors or omissions, it would be useful if the Physician or Surgeon General would point

them out: we have said above, that we plead not want of time as an apology in extenuation or excuse of them. All the members of the Special Medical Board had been much in the habit of inspecting military hospitals. Men who were but little conversant with such duties, could not have done the business in so short a time; or, to suppose an extreme case, men who had never been in military hospitals at all, could not have done it, properly, in any reasonable time that could be assigned. Mr. Keate proceeds:—“*where Dr. Jackson, after timely notice of their visit, had prepared matters for their inspection; and where he explained every thing as he pleased, without even the chance of contradiction from any person.*” If Dr. Jackson availed himself of the information which it was deemed proper to give him of our intended visit, to put the hospital in the best possible order, we do not blame him for it. The Physician and Surgeon General must surely know, that if an hospital be kept in bad order, it cannot in one day, nor in many days, be put into good order. The assertion that “*Dr. Jackson explained every thing as he pleased without contradiction,*” is one of those bold assumptions for which Mr. Keate can have no authority: and he seems wholly to forget, that this part of the business was matter

of inspection, not of explanation. The objects of inquiry were under our sight.

The next paragraph begins—“*That a report thus hastily made—*” Here it is meant to insinuate, that the report was framed upon only three hours employed in examining what related to the hospital: but how contrary this is to the truth the reader already knows. We had then collected only a small part of the materials for our report, and it was not finished until ten days after.

The sentence proceeds—“*that an inquiry under such circumstances, should not have been satisfactory to the Army Medical Board, will not appear extraordinary, considering that though one of its members (myself) had personally inspected the hospital at Chatham, whilst under Dr. Jackson’s management, and though they possessed returns, with other documents and evidence, connected with its management, for many months, no information was received or desired from any of the Board.*”

The Army Medical Board were dissatisfied with the report, *under the circumstances* that it was “*made hastily,*” and “*Dr. Jackson was allowed to explain every thing as he pleased.*” This is a very disingenuous statement. The real cause of their dissatisfaction must be obvious to

every reader. The inference meant to be insinuated by the latter part of the sentence is, manifestly, that we neglected to call for much useful information, resulting from returns in Mr. Keate's possession, and from his inspection. It will have already been seen, that we were more amply provided with returns than Mr. Keate: and the result of his inspection had been formally communicated to us in General Hewett's letters. On this subject we need only ask one question! Was Mr. Keate prepared to give to us, a different account of his inspection, from that which he gave to General Hewett upon the spot? General Hewett states *, that Mr. Keate reported to him "*his unqualified satisfaction with every thing he had seen.*"

It is very unpleasant thus to unravel a tissue of misrepresentation; and we will not proceed further in it. Respecting the charge of overlooking Dr. Borland's insubordination and disobedience, it will appear, from the documents, that no part of Dr. Borland's conduct was submitted to us. The wilful misrepresentation of joining Dr. Maclaurin's name with those of the hospital mates Andrews and Morison, as if the conduct of the Physician and Surgeon General

* Vide Letter, p. 38.

had been reprehended for calling for information from all three, whereas it was only for calling for information from the two last against their superior officer, cannot escape the observation of any one who shall read the report.

It must have appeared to the reader that General Hewett had conceived an unfavourable opinion of the nature of the ground of Parkhurst forest; and we may remark that it was some mortification to us to find that our judgment, maturely formed, from examination upon the spot, and supported by the information we received from officers whose regiments had been formerly in the barracks there, differed from that of an officer of so much respectability as General Hewett. Upwards of fifty thousand pounds had been expended by the nation on the barracks and hospital, and our investigation had convinced us that the evils and defects objected to them would all admit of an easy remedy, without much expense: our opinion was given accordingly, and experience has amply confirmed the truth of every part of it.

If, on being called upon to perform a public duty, we found ourselves compelled to state circumstances which might bring censure upon

individuals, it was an unpleasant part of our task. In the concluding sentence of our report, we have truly stated the feelings under which we endeavoured to discharge the trust confided to us; and we were gratified in knowing that we had given satisfaction to those under whose orders we acted; as will appear by the following letter:

Letter from the Secretary at War to the Special Medical Board.

"SIR, War Office, Jan. 16, 1802.

"Having submitted to the Commander in Chief the report of the Special Medical Board, sent to the Isle of Wight for the purpose of investigating the several circumstances represented by the Physician and Surgeon General, relative to the sick in the military hospitals there; I have the honor of acquainting you, that His Royal Highness has perused the same with great satisfaction, as containing a very able and clear statement of the causes of the diseases that prevail among the troops in the Isle of Wight, of the several matters connected with the treatment of the sick, and the local situation of the barracks and hospitals; and reflecting much credit on the very respectable professional gen-

tlemen who composed that Board: in which sentiments of His Royal Highness, I have the pleasure of expressing my entire concurrence.

"I beg you will be pleased to communicate the contents of this letter to Dr. Hunter, Mr. Weir, and Dr. Pinckard.

"I am, Sir, your most obedient,

"Humble servant,

"C. YORKE.

"Sir J. Hayes, Bart."

POSTSCRIPT.

DURING the time the preceding pages were in the press the following letter was received from Mr. Keate. The subjoined reply was transmitted ; and Mr. Keate afterwards signified his wish to have the letter printed with this publication.

Letter from the Surgeon-General to the Members of the late Special Medical Board.

“ GENTLEMEN, Albany, July 2d, 1808.

“ When preparing for the press that part of my late publication, which relates to your proceedings as a Board at the Isle of Wight, in Dec. 1801, I found among other papers a memorandum (the original of which I recollect to have seen in the hand-writing of Dr. Hunter), stating the hours of your landing on, and departure from, the Isle of Wight, by which it seems that you had passed only twenty seven hours on the island; and I found another memorandum, made on what I considered as good authority, from which it appeared that you had been only ‘ about three hours employed in ‘ examining what related to the hospital’ there,

whilst under the care of Dr. Jackson. I am, however, just informed, and induced to believe, that this last memorandum was not correct, and that you employed more of the time which you passed on the island than is commonly spared from repose, in examining every thing at the depot connected with your mission, and consequently that I committed an error, unintentionally, in mentioning your Report as having been 'thus hastily made.' My own regard for truth leads me thus spontaneously to make this acknowledgment unconditionally.

" In one of my examinations before the Commissioners, I had occasion to state the loss of papers sustained, some time ago, at the office of the Army Medical Board by fire, and I will now add, that from that, or some other cause, I have not been able to find a copy of the letter, or letters, from the Secretary at War to you, concerning the particular object of your mission to the Isle of Wight; nor can I now distinctly recollect whether I was fully acquainted with them. I may therefore have been under some mistake when writing my Appendix, No. 8, by supposing that more was referred to you; particularly in regard to Dr. Jackson's practice at Chatham and the Isle of Wight, than had been referred, and this mistake may have produced

erroneous impressions on my mind, while writing on that subject. I have not even been able to find a copy of your report, the account which I gave of it having been chiefly taken from Dr. Jackson's publication of 1803, and his Address to the Edinburgh Reviewers, in 1804.

"I am told that you are dissatisfied with my having mentioned your inquiry as an '*ex parte*' proceeding. Certainly I should willingly substitute any other term more applicable, if there be any: but, when I recollect that no person was present, who might have been able or disposed to contradict, or to explain any thing which Dr. Jackson alleged to you in his justification, I cannot help thinking that you were placed in a situation, where the most wise and upright of men might have been induced to make a report more favourable to Dr. Jackson, than they would have made, if those who had a knowledge of facts, and inclination to assert them, had been permitted to hear and answer Dr. Jackson. This is my whole meaning in what I have said on the subject: I have never supposed that you were more likely to be misled in this way than any and every other person would be in similar circumstances, and I considered any defects in your report, which might

have been thus occasioned, as necessarily arising from the nature and form of your proceeding, and not from any want of sagacity, discretion, or integrity, in any member of your Board. This declaration I make solely because it is conformable with truth, and because I wish to relieve you from any false impressions on the subject. Indeed a moment's reflection will convince you that I could not have intended to give useless offence to those with whom I had never been at variance, and much less to do injustice to gentlemen in your situations, who were at hand to contradict any thing erroneous I might publish. Unfortunately, I had so little time allowed me for consideration, that I was not aware that the statement I had written was likely to produce any such dissatisfaction in your minds as it appears to have done.

“ I have the honor to be, Gentlemen,

“ Your most obedient, humble servant,

“ T. KEATE.

“ Sir J. M. Hayes, Bart.

“ Dr. John Hunter,

“ John Weir, Esq.

“ Dr. George Pinchard.”

*Letter from Sir J. M. Hayes, Bart. to the
Surgeon-General.*

“ Old Burlington Street,

“ SIR, July 5th, 1808.

“ I have laid your letter before the gentlemen to whom it was addressed.

“ The printing of their Report, they consider as due to the public.

“ If it be your wish that your letter to them should be subjoined, they will not object to it.

“ I have the honor to be, Sir,

“ Your most obedient humble servant,

“ J. M. HAYES.

“ T. Keate, Esq. &c. &c. &c.”

THE END.



